

Remarks

A. Response to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Office Action of July 7, 2005, rejected Claims 4-7 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Heene et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,425, 831) in view of Quaintance et al. (U.S.Pat. 3, 765,994).

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 14, 16. The support for the amendments can be found in original claims and the specification (e.g., paragraphs 20-23 and 44). To the extent that the rejections may be applicable to currently amended claims, Applicants respectfully traverse.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

In making the rejections, the Office Action asserted that, regarding claims 1, 3, and 4, Heene et al. discloses a golf club head comprising a recess having a polymer insert wherein the polymer insert is composed of a transparent polymer material, with a thickness of 0.125 to 0.500 inches, or 3.175 to 127 mm, having a gloss and lustrous surface.

Applicants note that Heene et al. do not teach or suggest the claimed transparent polymer insert. Quite to the contrary, Heene et al. teach that "the natural color of the insert is white or off-white, and the insert may be painted with a base coat to enhance its white color." (Heene et al., col. 4, ll. 39-41). It appears that Heene et al. teach away from a transparent polymer insert.

Applicants note that Heene et al. do not teach or suggest a recess having a coarse surface.

Applicants further note that the insert taught by Heene et al. has shape and thickness (Heene et al., col. 4, ll. 13-14 and Fig. 6) prior to being placed into the recess since the insert needs to be placed within the recess assisted by tabs (Heene et al. col. 4, ll. 9-12). However, Applicants teach that the insert is disposed within the recess having a coarse surface by melting a thermoplastic transparent polymer material into a polymer fluid and pouring said polymer fluid into the recess (paragraphs 20-23). According to the specification, the coarse surface of the recess "can increase the adhesion of the recess surface with the polymer insertion disposed" and make the use of adhesive unnecessary (paragraph 44).

Quaintance et al. teaches that an anodized layer is secured to a transparent sheet of glass, quartz, or clear polymer by a transparent adhesive (See Fig. 1 of Quaintance et al. and col. 11, ll. 25-29) so that the information in the anodized layer can be read by direct illumination. Thus, Quaintance et al. do not teach an insert that is disposed within a recess by melting a thermoplastic transparent polymer material into a polymer fluid and pouring said polymer fluid into the recess, much less a recess having a coarse surface.

It appears that there is no teaching or motivation to combine Heene et al and Quaintance et al. Quaintance et al. are directed to reading the information of an anodized layer, which is behind the inner surface of a transparent sheet (the surface facing the anodized layer, see Quaintance et al., Fig. 1 and the Abstract). Heene et al. are directed to printing indicia on the exterior surface of an insert. The two, if combined, would reach indicia on the exterior surface of an insert, which would block the information of materials facing the inner surface of the insert.

Even if Quaintance et al. and Heene et al. were combined, the proposed combination would not reach the claimed limitations of the present invention. For example, the proposed combination would not teach a recess having a coarse surface, much less an insert which is disposed within the recess having a coarse surface by melting a thermoplastic transparent polymer material into a polymer fluid and pouring said polymer fluid into the recess


In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 9, 2006



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